

REMARKS

In his Action dated May 14, 2002, the Examiner has sustained his rejection of Claims 1, 3-7 and 9-12, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,798,752, *Buxton, et al.* That rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted in the Examiner's previous rejection, the Examiner has taken a position that *Buxton, et al.*, teach a method and system for execution of a predefined process within a data processing system which includes a keyboard, a plurality of objects and a pointing device having buttons with an associated movable cursor. The Examiner believes that *Buxton, et al.*, teach the creation of a custom tool by permitting the user to graphically position multiple pre-existing tools together to define a new tool which the Examiner believes suggests a predefined process. Thereafter, as taught by *Buxton, et al.*, the frame containing those tools is dragged over an object and the mouse cursor is then utilized to click on that object through the frame, executing the process described by the tools therein.

Applicant, in the past, has urged the Examiner to consider that the step of relocating a transparent overlay over a particular object and then clicking utilizing a mouse cursor through the overlay does not, in the opinion of the Applicant, show or suggest in any way "executing said predefined process on any suitable object within said data processing system in response to each subsequent graphic selection of a suitable object and depression of said at least one button by a user utilizing said movable cursor until said association is disabled by a user."

In response to Applicant's argument, the Examiner cites the teaching of *Buxton, et al.*, at column 26, lines 1-22, wherein *Buxton, et al.*, teach the operation of their system in a so-called "modal" mode.

As described, beginning at column 25, lines 60, *et seq.*, *Buxton, et al.*, for those users who find the operation of a frame and cursor inconvenient, permits those users to operate in a "more traditional modal interface." That "more traditional modal interface" is the interface described in the prior art by the Applicant and described in the various references previously cited by the Examiner as a mode of operation in which a particular tool is selected by the user utilizing a cursor and thereafter that particular tool operates on each object selected by the cursor.

Further support for this position is found in *Buxton, et al.*, at column 26, lines 1-9 wherein *Buxton, et al.*, state that "the tool handle described in section 3.01 could include a button "for placing the cursor in a tool mode corresponding to that tool. While in this mode, users can repeatedly perform operations as though they were clicking through that tool."

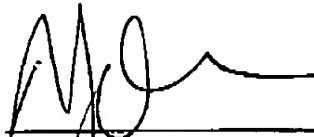
Thus, Applicant urges the Examiner to consider that the modal tool described in *Buxton, et al.*, merely comprises a form of operation wherein a particular tool can be selected by the operator and thereafter operated in conjunction with the movable cursor like the painting tools previously described during the prosecution of this Application.

Applicant urges that this form of operation fails to show or suggest in any way the specifying of "a predefined process within said data processing system said predefined process comprising a plurality of keystrokes, said plurality of keystrokes specifying a user defined executable process which may be applied to one or more objects within said data processing system" so that that process could be associated with a cursor and thereafter applied to any suitable object upon selection with the cursor.

The mere selection of a particular tool and the application of that tool to various objects within the system does not show or suggest the association of a process as described in the present Specification and claims and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection is respectfully requested.

No fee is believed to be required; however, in the event any additional fees are required, please charge IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 09-0461. No extension of time is believed to be required; however, in the event any extension is required, please consider that extension requested and please charge any associated fee and any additional required fees to IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 09-0461.

Respectfully submitted,



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